



Government of
Saskatchewan

Annual Report 1985-86

**Saskatchewan
Parks and
Renewable
Resources**

Annual Report 1985-86

Saskatchewan
Parks and
Renewable
Resources

For the fiscal year ending
March 31, 1986



Saskatchewan
HERITAGE
1985

Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources Mission

The mission of Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources is to conserve, develop and manage Saskatchewan's fish, forests, parks, resource lands and wildlife in a manner which optimizes recreational opportunities, quality of life and economic benefits to the people of Saskatchewan, while maintaining these resources in perpetuity.

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Minister's Transmittal



To the Honourable F. W. Johnson
Lieutenant-Governor of the
Province of Saskatchewan

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the 1985/86 Annual Report of the Department of Parks and Renewable Resources.

During this period, a number of measures were undertaken to develop programs to enhance the management of the province's renewable resources and parks.

To recognize the serious disregard for the law by some in terms of commercial trafficking of wildlife parts and poaching activities, the department hired a Provincial Enforcement Co-ordinator. The Co-ordinator, Conservation Officers, and Wildlife Branch personnel assisted in the identification of needed legislation and support programming to curb illegal hunting in Saskatchewan.

Amendments to The Critical Wildlife Habitat Protection Act were made to secure an additional 1.2 million acres of agricultural Crown land. Also completed by the department were Disposition and Alteration Regulations to guide the use of these lands.

The eighth Heritage Marsh at Foam Lake was officially dedicated in October. The heritage marshes along with other department programs, help in an international effort to revive duck populations which are declining due to loss of habitat.

The department's Firearm Safety/Hunter Education program marked its 25th anniversary with the 100,000th student graduating from the course this year. The year also saw the lowest number of firearm accidents in the program's history.

During this "Heritage Year in Saskatchewan," the department used this opportunity to provide many special activities in provincial historic parks during the summer. Restorations were undertaken at Fort Carlton

and Cannington Manor with official openings in July. Community groups and history societies brought vitality through their participation at several events at Saskatchewan historic parks during Heritage Year.

A number of new and exciting proposals were approved under the Private Investment Program. A major waterslide complex, a new clubhouse and golf course improvements at Moose Mountain Provincial Park; new clubhouse and golf course improvements at Valley Centre Golf Course and houseboat rentals at Elbow Harbor are just a few of the developments to look forward to in the year ahead.

To further meet demands of visitors to provincial parks and recreation sites, 655 campsites were electrified as part of an ongoing program to upgrade provincial campgrounds.

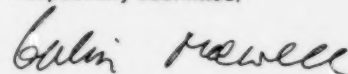
Complaints of rowdiness and noise in provincial parks were reduced during the year with the continuation of an effective public awareness campaign complemented by a visitor protection and security training program for park officers.

Significant study of the forestry sector was undertaken during the year by a departmental task force. Its objective was to review the 50-year-old Forest Act and the rapid growth in demand for Saskatchewan's forest resources. The task force is to develop recommendations to amend The Forest Act for improved management.

A network of six regional fisheries biologists was established this year to provide better service to resource users and to improve fisheries management. Also introduced in the spring was the Sport Fish Conservation Program. Its objective was to reduce pressure on heavily-fished species and provide protection for spring-spawning fish. Anglers surveyed about the program indicated a positive reaction. This program was complemented by the Commercial Fish Conservation Program initiated through distribution of a discussion paper to resource users. An action plan resulting in part from the user evaluations will be ready for further review and comment in the summer of 1986.

Several initiatives were undertaken during the year to improve staff productivity in management, technical, clerical and field operations. I commend the staff for their participation and enthusiasm in these worthwhile programs and for their continued work and dedication in producing and implementing department programs that have a direct bearing on the quality of life in Saskatchewan.

Respectfully submitted,



Colin Maxwell
Minister
Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources

Deputy Minister's Transmittal



To the Honourable Colin Maxwell
Minister of Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable
Resources

Sir:

I am pleased to submit the annual report for the
Department of Parks and Renewable Resources for the
year ending March 31, 1986.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. C. Law". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a cursive "C".

J. C. Law
Deputy Minister

Financial Statement

This Financial Statement includes only the revenue and expenditures directly recorded in the Consolidated Fund.

Receipts and Disbursements

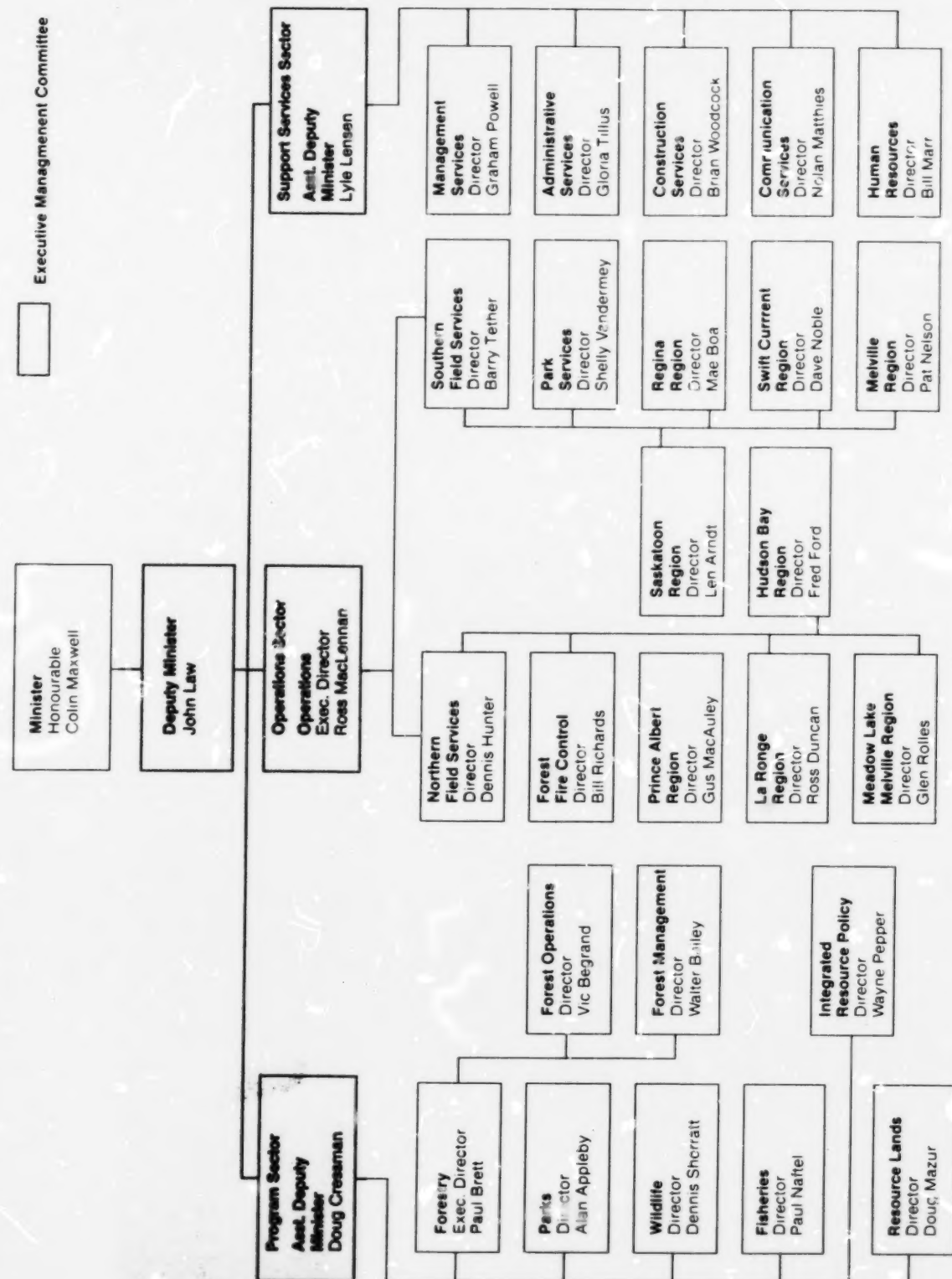
Disbursements 61,647,630
Receipts 10,836,074

Excess of Disbursements over Receipts 50,811,556

Receipts	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Fisheries	1,108,373	1,059,100	1,122,583	1,862,869	1,890,846
Wildlife	2,419,977	2,608,300	3,575,976	3,647,918	3,585,902
Lands	102,637	145,100	183,645	165,689	268,181
Parks & Recreation ...	.	.	.	.	.
Forestry	2,978,653	2,743,900	3,821,031	3,699,666	3,606,926
Miscellaneous	3,889,132	3,600,700	3,381,811	2,017,870	1,484,219
Total	10,498,772	10,157,100	12,085,046	11,394,012	10,836,074
Disbursements					
Ordinary	34,304,632	49,088,090	50,924,939	66,486,470	57,797,154
Capital	2,894,877	2,531,300	2,827,877	3,679,442	3,850,476
Total	37,199,509	51,619,390	53,752,816	70,165,912	61,647,630

* Included in Commercial Revolving Fund

Department Organizational Chart



Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources Organization

In order to fulfil its mission, the department is broadly organized into three major sectors: Programs, Support Services and Operations. The three sectors work together to provide integrated management of the province's renewable resources and delivery of services.

Programs



Doug Cressman
Assistant Deputy Minister

The Program sector includes the six branches responsible for developing policy and programs related to fisheries, forestry, wildlife, resource lands and parks. The newly-formed Integrated Resource Policy Branch ensures that various resource programs are appropriately integrated.

The Forestry Division develops and administers programs to ensure continual production and wise use of the provincial forest. The Forest Management Branch develops and maintains a forestry data base, analyses and allocates timber supplies, establishes Forest Management Licence Agreements and maintains forest regulations. The Forest Operations Branch is responsible for implementing programs at the regional level, reforestation, extension services and development of intensive forest management techniques.

Comprehensive planning, policy and programming for the development of the province's provincial parks, recreation sites, campgrounds and historic sites are provided by the Parks Branch. Facility plans and park visitor programs are key responsibilities. The branch also administers the Regional Parks Program.

Resource Lands Branch administers the use, disposition and management of the province's 31.5 million hectares of Crown resource lands. It develops and co-ordinates plans, policies, procedures and program alternatives to allocate and manage resource lands for the continuous social and economic benefit of Saskatchewan people.

The Wildlife Branch manages the wildlife resources for the benefit and use of Saskatchewan residents. It sets hunting seasons, regulates hunters, reintroduces extirpated wildlife species to the province, develops programs to prevent wildlife damage to agricultural produce and property and administers the Firearm Safety/Hunter Education Program. It designs and promotes programs that enhance the co-existence of wildlife and agriculture in Saskatchewan. Important wildlife production habitats secured under the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund are administered by the Wildlife Branch.

The Saskatchewan fishery is the responsibility of the Fisheries Branch. Its programs are designed to increase fish stocks, broaden the range of fishing opportunities and mobilize undeveloped economic potential in the fishery. It is also responsible for fish conservation programs through regulation of the fish harvest, fish habitat protection and fisheries enhancement.

The Integrated Resource Policy Branch, established during the year under review, provides leadership, expertise and support for integrating resource management in the department. It seeks to ensure that all concerns and interests associated with resource management programs in the department are fairly considered during the decision-making process.

Operations



Ross MacLennan
Executive Director

Operations is responsible for delivering department programs to the public. Its activities include implementation of forestry, fisheries, wildlife, parks and resource lands programs at the community level.

These activities are carried on throughout the province by the Saskatoon, Melville, Regina and Swift Current Regions and the Park Services Branch in the Southern Field Services Division and by the Meadow Lake, Prince Albert, Hudson Bay and La Ronge Regions and the Forest Fire Management Branch in the Northern Field Services Division.

Operating and maintaining provincial parks, recreation sites, picnic sites and campgrounds account for nearly one-half of regional activities. This includes construction and maintenance of facilities, upkeep and enhancement of park grounds, provincial park security, providing information and direction to visitors, operating recreation facilities such as golf courses and pools, and providing nature interpretive, recreation and aquatic programs. Winter activities include cross-country ski and snowmobile trail construction and maintenance as well as operation of downhill ski facilities.

The Park Services Branch provides central services and management guidance for park operations including maintenance, commercial operations and leases, customer services and operates the Echo Valley Conference Centre.

Forestry and forest fire management account for over one-third of Operations' activities. A variety of forest use permits are issued, inspections made, and trees planted. The Forest Fire Management Branch provides central services for forest fire prevention, detection and fire suppression, aircraft contracting, equipment supply, technical services and staff training.

Operations is responsible for enforcing all acts and regulations dealing with wildlife, fisheries, forestry, resource lands and parks. Wildlife activities during the year under review concentrated on poaching, night hunting and illegal trafficking of wildlife. Other wildlife activities include prevention of damage to crops or property by beaver, bear, and other big game and waterfowl, as well as assisting in wildlife surveys.

Fisheries work includes enforcement of sport, commercial and domestic fishing regulations, stocking of waterbodies, and capital development of fish enhancement projects.

Activities related to Crown resource lands include issuing land use leases and permits related to wild rice and surface disposition for mineral exploration, as well as performing a variety of land use inspections to ensure compatibility with the resources under the department's jurisdiction.

Support Services



Lyle Lensen
Assistant Deputy Minister

Support Services provides ongoing support for the achievement of the overall goals of the department. It consists of five branches:

The Administrative Services Branch is responsible for the department's payroll; revenue and expenditure processes; licence vendor services; and financial statements for the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, the Commercial Revolving Fund and the Resource Protection and Development Revolving Fund. It also performs audits of the forest industry, regional parks, and department field offices.

Management Services Branch provides central planning and management services including budget co-ordination and analysis, co-ordination of productivity improvement initiatives and development of goals and objectives, statistics collection and evaluation, management information system design and co-ordination, and management/operational audits.

Effective communication and promotion of the department's programs and policies within the department and to the public are provided by Communications Services Branch.

The design and project management of structures, roads, sites and facilities in parks and on resource lands are provided by Construction Services Branch. The branch also administers the Resource Protection and Development Revolving Fund and prepares and manages the capital budget.

Human Resources Branch provides personnel management services to line managers and employees in the form of training and development, staffing, classification, labour relations and day-to-day personnel services.



Departmental Accomplishments

Management of the department's internal affairs is organized and developed to provide the most effective and efficient conservation, development and management of Saskatchewan's renewable resources.

Internal Management

Productivity Improvement Initiatives

The department undertook several productivity improvement initiatives during the year:

Strategic productivity involved the establishment of an annual planning calendar which includes department goals and objectives, budget planning and process, legislation planning, managing human performance workplans, and performance reviews.

Management productivity included program evaluations and management audits, operational reviews and systems development.

Professional technical and clerical productivity included improved technology and equipment upgrading, in-house skill development programs for staff and improved methods of project management.

Work force management productivity included training courses for front-line summer staff, commercial managers' conferences, training for maintenance and construction staff and hospitality training.

Enforcement Operations

Enforcement priorities in fisheries and wildlife were determined by analysing those illegal practices that were most widespread and damaging to the resources.

Commercial trafficking in wildlife parts combined with night hunting and use of aircraft were found to be most serious for wildlife. Indiscriminate use of small mesh nets for commercial and domestic net fishing was most harmful to fish populations.

A Provincial Enforcement Co-ordinator was hired to develop priorities and co-ordinate provincial enforcement activities and to be a liaison person with other Canadian and international resource enforcement agencies.

Training and Development

Training and development activities during the year were more cost effective as they were based on an annual plan which responded to real need as defined through department goals and objectives.

Employee attendance at training and development activities totalled 2,452 person days. The activities were presented by the Public Service Commission, educational institutions, consultants and the department training staff.

New initiatives this year included an internally developed one-day Managing Human Performance refresher course delivered to out-of-scope staff, development of a supervisory skills workshop for seasonal staff supervisors, and the finalization of the Conservation Officer Career Development Program.

Enforcement training has been updated and increased over the past year. In September, 75 Conservation Officers attended three one-week resource enforcement seminars.

Human Resources

Staffing actions this year included 139 classified service and 178 new labour service appointments. A total of 94 classified service and seven labour service positions were reviewed and classification action taken.

A significant development was acceptance of delegated staffing and classification authority from the Public Service Commission and implementation of the new management and professional Classification Plan. This year the department also accepted responsibility for providing human resource management support to Saskatchewan Culture and Recreation.

A total of seven formal grievances were raised within the department, six of which were resolved prior to reaching arbitration. The remaining one was still to be dealt with at year-end. Workers Compensation claims totalled 128.

Pay adjustments for all out-of-scope employees were for the first time based on performance evaluations.

Department Re-organization

During the year the administrative amalgamation of the La Ronge Provincial Park and the La Ronge District was finalized. The administrative district of Ile-a-la-Crosse was realigned into the Beauval District, reducing overall operational costs.

A new program branch, Integrated Resource Policy Branch, was formed during the year. The branch co-ordinates development of new legislation and integrates the department's activities in a variety of multi-disciplinary studies and developments.



Program Accomplishments

Parks

The department is responsible for Saskatchewan's 17 provincial parks, nine provincial historic parks and 200 recreation sites. The total area of parks land managed by the department in 1985/86 was 11,787 hectares. During the year approximately 2.4 million people visited Saskatchewan's provincial parks. Capital and maintenance grant funding and technical consultation are also provided to the 101 regional parks. Nearly three million people visited the regional parks in 1985/86.

Year-round programs are developed and implemented to aid park visitors in recognizing, using and enjoying the full recreational, interpretive and educational potential of the provincial park system.

Park Development

Historic Parks

In keeping with the Heritage Year theme, a number of special activities were undertaken in the Historic Parks Program:

New brochures were distributed for Fort Carlton, Cannington Manor, St. Victor's Petroglyphs, Fort Pitt, Steele Narrows and Last Mountain House Historic Parks and for Holy Trinity Anglican Church Stanley Mission Historic Site. New interpretive panels were installed at St. Victor's Petroglyphs, Fort Pitt, Steele Narrows and Holy Trinity Anglican Church at Stanley Mission.

Holy Trinity Anglican Church at Stanley Mission, the oldest building in Saskatchewan, was officially re-opened and rededicated in June, 1985 after four years of restoration work.

Extensive display changes were made at Fort Carlton Historic Park. These displays, which recreated the interior of 1860s fur trade buildings, were officially opened in July.

At Cannington Manor Historic Park, the newly restored Bachelor Cabin was officially re-opened in July.

Special programs, demonstrations and activities were held at several historic parks to commemorate Heritage Year, including Fort Carlton, Cannington Manor and St. Victor's Petroglyphs.

Commemorative events marking the 100th anniversary of the 1885 North-West Rebellion were held at Steele Narrows and Fort Pitt Historic Parks in June and July respectively. The Fort Pitt event was sponsored by the Fort Pitt Historical

Society and Saskatchewan Heritage and more than 5,000 people attended.

Visitation to the four parks where interpretive staff are available to keep records (Fort Carlton, Cannington Manor, Last Mountain House and Wood Mountain Post) increased from 28,780 in 1984 to 34,910 in 1985. The greatest increase was at Fort Carlton which had an increase in visitors of 53 per cent over the previous year.

A historic report on Touchwood Post Historic Park was undertaken and three heritage resource impact assessments were completed.

Private Investment Program

The department continued to encourage commercial development opportunities by the private sector in provincial parks and recreation sites. During the year 15 new businesses were established attracting \$750,000 in private capital investment, 19 person years of construction employment and 19 person years of operating employment.

New proposals approved during the year for facilities construction or operation in 1986/87 included the following: a major waterslide complex, new clubhouse and golf course improvements at Moose Mountain Provincial Park, golf course improvements and new clubhouse at Valley Centre Golf Course, Fort Qu'Appelle, miniature golf courses at Saskatchewan Landing and Meadow Lake Provincial Parks, and houseboat rentals at Elbow Harbour.

Commercial Leases

During the year the department entered into 80 commercial lease agreements which covered 101 different facilities leased to the private sector. Types of facilities operated by the private sector included miniature golf, boat rentals, fast food services, stores and riding stables. As a result, more than \$200,000 of lease revenue was generated.

Facility Development

The department carried out a \$3.8-million capital program. Some of the projects undertaken in provincial parks and recreation sites included:

- electrification of 655 campsites at Rowan's Ravine, Buffalo Pound, Battlefords, Meadow Lake, Moose Mountain, and Duck Mountain Provincial Parks and Makwa Lake and Candle Lake Recreation Sites.

Left: Parks interpretation is an integral component of the services offered at many provincial parks.

- expansion of the campground at Good Spirit Lake Provincial Park
- major parking lot and landscaping of the Cypress Hills Provincial Park core area
- restorations, display changes and site development at Cannington Manor, Last Mountain House and Fort Carlton Historic Parks
- winterization and upgrading of rental accommodation in Greenwater and Duck Mountain Provincial Parks
- public use facilities such as washrooms, service centres, bath/changehouses, recreation halls, picnic tables and barbecues were constructed/renovated in Duck Mountain, Saskatchewan Landing, Moose Mountain, Battlefords, Meadow Lake and Cypress Hills Provincial Parks, Crooked Lake and Candle Lake Recreation Sites and other recreation areas.
- renovations to the ski lift facilities at Blackstrap Recreation Site
- boat dock/launch facilities improvement in Meadow Lake, Good Spirit, Saskatchewan Landing and La Ronge Provincial Parks, Boundary Dam Recreation Site and at Stanley Mission
- beach and shoreline improvements at Buffalo Pound, Good Spirit Lake and Cypress Hills Provincial Parks; Amisk Lake and Regina Beach Recreation Sites and other recreation areas
- site improvements at Lovering and Big Shell Lakes
- building completion and landscaping at Stabler Point campground service centre
- upgrading sanitary landfills at Turtle Lake and Buffalo Narrows; Rowan's Ravine and Good Spirit Lake Provincial Parks and various locations in the La Ronge Region
- drilling for potable water supplies completed in various locations
- improvements to facilities in Moose Jaw Wild Animal Park
- repairs to buildings at the Echo Valley Conference Centre

New Careers Corporation

The department provided construction drawings and project co-ordination for the following projects for construction by the New Careers Corporation:

- Elbow Harbor marina
- Elbow Harbor golf course

- Rowan's Ravine marina
- Moose Mountain Camp 100 water system
- Carpenter's Shop at Cannington Manor Historic Park
- creative playgrounds at Battlefords, Pike Lake, Rowan's Ravine, Moose Mountain, Good Spirit Lake, Cypress Hills and Nipawin Provincial Parks

Park Programs

Recreation Programs

Throughout 16 provincial parks, more than 79,000 park visitors participated in summer recreation, aquatic and interpretive programs.

A popular ongoing summer program provided by the department is swimming lessons. More than 6,380 children were instructed during the year.

The third week in July was officially designated Parks Week during which heritage-themed programs took place. The Merely Players theatrical group toured the parks presenting a show about the parks' and the province's history.

A new parks display was developed focussing on park classification and related programs. This display will be used at exhibitions and conferences for park promotion and information.

The Park Passport Program was introduced to encourage people to visit more provincial parks. The program was moderately successful, with more than 48,800 passports distributed to park visitors.

Winter programs included 40 events at which more than 9,000 people participated. The Nordic Ski Patrol provided winter emergency procedure seminars for staff in Echo Valley, Cypress Hills, La Ronge and Meadow Lake Provincial Parks. Winter activities were enhanced with the maintenance of 523 kilometres of snowmobile trails and 352 kilometres of cross-country ski trails, the operation of three downhill ski facilities and 48 rental accommodations by the department.

The upgrading of Moose Jaw Wild Animal Park and the development of the "Wild and Wonderful" promotion resulted in 162,150 visitors to the park in 1985 compared to 118,810 in 1984, an increase of 36.5 per cent.

Park Security

The department continued the public awareness campaign "Enjoy the Wildlife, Don't Be the

Wildlife." The program was implemented with an active park visitor protection and security program delivered by 94 trained park officers and resulted in a significant reduction of complaints from park users.

During the year, park officers evicted 399 persons and gave 426 notices of violation (warnings) compared to 311 evictions and 508 notices of violation the previous year. Convictions resulting from infractions of various sections of The Parks Act and Regulations totalled 315 in 1985/86 compared to 183 last year.

Echo Valley Conference Centre

Echo Valley Conference Centre hosted over 250 groups ranging in size from 10 to 300 during the year. Approximately 1,000 students were enrolled in the Saskatchewan School of the Arts. During 1985/86 30,020 bed/nights were occupied and 65,054 meals were served.

Complete refurbishing of the conference centre power house was undertaken during the year. As well, major operational efficiencies were achieved in food services including expansion of menus and several production improvements.

During the year customer service publications were introduced promoting use of the department's conference/accommodation facilities.

Regional Parks Program

The 101 regional parks in Saskatchewan are owned and operated by their respective Regional Park Authorities. The Province and local municipalities provide funding for maintenance and capital development.

In 1985 the Province provided approximately \$2.5 million in capital and maintenance grants while sponsoring bodies provided about \$1.3 million.

Approximately \$3.4 million in direct revenue was generated by visits to regional parks, with substantial spin-off benefits to the local communities.

Park Planning

Recreation Lands Planning

A major review of the entire provincial parks system was initiated. The resulting Parks System Plan will address both the existing network of parks, recreation sites and protected areas as well as identify future protection and recreation needs.

Detailed park planning in two of the province's more heavily used parks resulted in preparation of core area redevelopment plans for Moose Mountain and Greenwater Provincial Parks. A park lands zoning scheme and format were developed to direct preparation of management zone plans for all provincial parks.

The Cypress Hills Provincial Park Vegetation Management Study was completed during the year. This study will form the basis of a plan to protect and rejuvenate the park's forest so that it can provide ongoing recreation opportunities.

A paper entitled "Recreation Potential of Saline Lakes in Saskatchewan" was prepared and presented at the Plains Aquatic Research Conference Symposium on Saline Waters in August, 1985. The paper will be published in the conference proceedings.

Park Management Strategies

As part of an ongoing program, Park Management Strategies were produced for Meadow Lake and Buffalo Pound Provincial Parks. The strategies give direction for the ongoing management, use and development of the parks.

A management plan was completed for the Clearwater River in northwestern Saskatchewan. It is a candidate Canadian Heritage River. The planning process involved a newsletter circulated to the public and public open house meetings held across the province.

Facility Planning

A five-year capital budget forecast was compiled for all park and recreation-related projects of the department. The document served to guide immediate priorities as well as long-term capital expenditures tied to one of the department's major thrusts, that being the development of a new parks system.

Planning and design for major park facilities included: siting the Pike Lake Provincial Park swimming pool, new campground loops at Good Spirit Provincial Park, the campground entry complex at Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park, and the small craft sailing area and launch at Tufts Bay in the Elbow Harbour Recreation Site.



Wildlife

Over 80 per cent of all adults in Saskatchewan use wildlife in some way. The consumptive uses of wildlife, including hunting and trapping, contribute to the economy and well-being of Saskatchewan residents. The non-consumptive uses of wildlife, such as viewing and photography, add greatly to the quality of life in this province.

Habitat Protection

Critical Wildlife Habitat Protection Act

The Critical Wildlife Habitat Protection Act was amended to include an additional 485,640 hectares of agricultural Crown land. Much critical white-tailed deer habitat in the parkland was secured in the process. Disposition and Alteration Regulations were passed to guide the use of such critical wildlife habitat lands and preparations were made for the formal designation of more land.

Fish and Wildlife Development Fund

In 1985/86, another 539 hectares of habitat were purchased under the wildlife component of the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund. Total area held by the Fund now stands at 29,541 hectares. The increase in annual funding up to \$650,000 and a sharp decline in land prices in 1985 will allow this program to have a greater impact on wildlife habitat conservation in the near future.

Department staff made 483 inspections to ensure that wildlife habitat was being maintained.

Heritage Farmstead Program

The Heritage Farmstead Program, part of the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, had a successful first year. Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation co-operators placed 151 abandoned farmsteads into the program. An attractive metal sign, supplied by the department, which recognizes the landowner and the pioneer, is erected on each site.

Heritage Marshes Program

Construction of the Foam Lake Heritage Marsh was completed and the site officially dedicated in October. With the assistance of Saskatchewan Agriculture, the prospect of establishing Cheal Lake as a Heritage Marsh was enhanced by securing all the land necessary for the project. Co-operating agencies discussed the identification of an additional seven marshes to bring the total to 15.

Prairie Pothole Project

With financial assistance from Wildlife Habitat Canada, the department undertook a study involving landowners in the Redvers area. The study investigated the conservation of prairie "pothole" or slough waterfowl breeding habitat through ways and means that are compatible with agriculture needs. It was recommended that a pilot project be implemented in the Redvers area. This project may prove instructive in the implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Wildlife Habitat Protection by Satellite

Department staff became involved in the experimental computer (DIPEX) analysis of satellite (LANDSTAT) data to provide information on terrestrial habitat availability. This work was sponsored by the Saskatchewan Research Council in conjunction with Canada Energy and Mines.

Wildlife Management

White-tailed Deer Management

Last year's early cold winter temperatures resulted in low hunter participation, one of the lowest success rates, and the lowest harvest rate on record for all 1985 white-tailed deer seasons.

The special antlerless season in Zones 31 and 32 was continued in an effort to provide greater hunting opportunity and to restore the balance of bucks to does in these areas.

A bucks-only white-tailed deer season was implemented in Zone 38 to allow the low deer population to increase. The two-deer season for white-tailed deer was eliminated in 1985 to reduce hunting pressure and allow populations along the forest fringe to recover.

Mule Deer Management

The 1985 mule deer season was the most liberal season in the history of quota mule deer hunting, with 9,475 antlerless mule deer licences allocated and a quota of two deer per licence. The season and quota were part of an effort to provide recreation and to stabilize mule deer populations in the southwestern part of the province. During the 1985 season, 16,300 mule deer were harvested.

Elk Management

A new special elk season was implemented in the Centre and East Blocks of the Cypress Hills to help control the expanding elk population.

Bear Management

The licensing system permitting the harvest of two bears with the purchase of a regular big game licence was continued in 1985 to encourage a higher bear harvest in Zones 58 to 61 and to reduce bear predation on moose calves. Under this system, the bear harvest in these zones increased by approximately 20 per cent.

Barren Ground Caribou Management

Activities of the Beverly-Kaministiquia Caribou Management Board continued in 1985/86 with the completion of the 10-year caribou management plan and the publishing of a four-unit educational program for schools in northern communities.

Annual surveys showed that only a few caribou from the Beverly herd wintered in Saskatchewan. However, although populations were low, the caribou occupied a larger portion of Saskatchewan's Athabasca region. Monitoring the caribou harvest indicated that the 1985 harvest was similar to the previous year, but below the five-year average.

Moose Restoration

Road closures and game preserves continued to be instituted in the Commercial Forest Zone to permit the recovery of severely depleted moose populations. Earlier projects have already met with measurable success. Additional forestry access roads no longer required by the forest industry were closed this year, bringing the total of such closures to approximately 500 roads. The Candle Lake Game Preserve, an extensive area in north-central Saskatchewan, was established. A detailed road inventory was completed for the entire Commercial Forest Zone to provide data needed to continue the moose restoration effort.

Waterfowl

The continental mallard breeding population declined to a new record low of 5.47 million in 1985. In an effort to conserve dwindling duck populations, restrictive duck bag limits of four birds daily were introduced for the 1985 duck hunting season. Goose populations remained healthy and regulations remained constant.

The five-year study of duck populations under stabilized regulations conducted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service was completed. International negotiations continued toward finalizing the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

North American Waterfowl Management Plan

Department staff participated in inter-jurisdictional planning to advance the North American Waterfowl Management Plan in the province. This international strategy to restore waterfowl populations to the levels of the 1970's calls for joint Canada-United States expenditures of \$1.5 billion over a 15-year period to secure duck breeding habitat in agricultural areas of the three prairie provinces. Saskatchewan will be a key player in the plan with over 809,400 hectares of wetlands and associated upland nesting cover targeted for protection through private landowner incentives.

Broad public support for this initiative led the provincial government to endorse the plan early in 1986 and commit the department to begin financial negotiations with international funding sources during the upcoming year.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Because Saskatchewan's bald eagle population is stable, support for the North American Eagle Restoration Program was continued for the third year. Twelve eaglets captured along the Churchill River were successfully transported to Pennsylvania and released to the wild.

The province's white pelican population was surveyed, indicating that Saskatchewan now has 17,931 nesting pairs in 13 colonies. This represents an increase from 15,480 pairs in 10 colonies observed in 1982.

Two male swift foxes were released in June in the hope that one of them would mate with a single female from the 1984 release. During the winter, five more pairs, due to be released in June, 1986, were placed in pens near the release site to become accustomed to their new environment.

Provincial Wild Fur Management

Nineteen species of wild fur bearers are harvested for commercial purposes in the province. The sale of raw fur pelts in 1985/86 amounted to \$5,007,637.

Twenty trapper education courses were conducted by the department throughout the province, resulting in 393 trappers instructed in humane capture techniques, furbearer management and proper pelt handling.

Department staff contacted 4,359 trappers, made 580 Northern Fur Conservation Area inspections, contacted 522 fur dealers and issued 2,016 fur export permits.

Enforcement

This year, conservation officers contacted 40,536 hunters and trappers in the field, and there were 776 wildlife-related convictions. Of the convictions, 93 were related to illegal night hunting and trafficking in wildlife.

Firearm Safety/Hunter Education

The Firearm Safety/Hunter Education program achieved a milestone in 1985/86 with the certification of the 100,000th student graduate. A total of 3,913 students were trained and 81 people received instructor certification during the year. In addition, approximately 50 individuals participated in two white-tailed deer hunter workshops offered by the department.

The year had the lowest number of firearm accidents in the history of the 25-year program — 25 accidents and one fatality.

Project Wild

The Project Wild education program was initiated in September by training eight staff members and 24 teacher volunteers as facilitators. During the year these facilitators trained 514 teachers and youth leaders in the use of Project Wild materials which provide conservation concepts and wildlife values as background, while teaching other academic subjects.

Wildlife Information and Education

The department published, jointly with the Western College of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Saskatchewan, the Handbook of Diseases of Saskatchewan Wildlife.

To relay wildlife management information and enhance public understanding of department programs and legislation, department staff made some 300 media appearances, visited 455 school rooms, contacted 3,881 Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation members and made 190 contacts with Indian Bands. As well 23 news releases were issued.

Wildlife Depredation

Damage Prevention Programs

Prevention of damage by wildlife to farmers' crops, property and livestock continues to be a department priority. Department staff investigated

1,443 landowner damage claims and provided expertise to help reduce such damage.

Along the forest fringe, electric fencing continues to be used to reduce black bear damage to apiaries. Instruction courses for beekeepers and electric fence material, supplied in lieu of compensation payments, significantly reduced bear depredation.

Intercept deer and elk feeding programs at Cypress Hills, Greenwater and Moose Mountain Provincial Parks, Big River and Fort a la Corne reduced damage to agricultural products. High deer populations in southwestern Saskatchewan continued to cause problems with irrigated alfalfa crops, some grain crops and haystacks.

Ungulate-proof fencing, supplied to landowners in southern Saskatchewan, eliminated chronic elk and deer haystack depredation problems in several locations.

Wolf trapping schools and predator control programs in Meadow Lake and Prince Albert Regions were undertaken to reduce depredation of cattle along the forest fringe and in community pastures.

A coyote-snaring program undertaken in sheep-ranching areas of the Saskatoon Region resulted in 200 coyotes being taken.

Waterfowl Crop Depredation

Waterfowl crop damage prevention continues to be an important part of the federal-provincial Wildlife-Landowner Assistance Program, and an integral part of wetland habitat development. In 1985, waterfowl damage was the worst it has been in many years because of the wet fall and extended harvest. Compensation payments under the program totalled nearly \$6.5 million. The department operated over 2,241 hectares of permanent lure crops and 19 bait stations.

Problem Beaver Control

The program to deal with large-scale beaver problems continued in 1985/86 in co-operation with rural municipalities. Drainage systems were surveyed to identify beaver dams and trouble spots. Beaver-proof culverts were installed and expert trappers brought in to reduce beaver populations. Acting on 1,524 complaints, department staff destroyed 272 beaver lodges and 3,083 dams to reduce flooding. Six dam-blasting courses were organized to train 146 individuals.



Forestry

Saskatchewan's commercial forest covers approximately 144,060 square kilometres of forested land or 21 per cent of the provincial land base. It supports a long run, sustainable softwood yield of some 3.9 million cubic metres with an additional 2.7 million cubic metres potentially available from hardwoods.

Administration

Forest Act Task Force

Saskatchewan's forest legislation was first enacted more than 50 years ago. Recent rapid growth in demand for forest resources by forest users has rendered The Forest Act largely inadequate. In April, 1985 a departmental task force was established to:

- 1) develop recommendations for substantial improvements to The Forest Act, and
- 2) develop planning procedures that, when implemented, will bring the province's forest resources within a management system based on rational planning and goal-setting. A planning model has been completed and will be tested for practicality and effectiveness during 1986/87.

New grazing regulations were established which will allow for consistent handling of applications.

Canada-Saskatchewan Forest Resource Development Agreement

In 1985/86 the provincial contribution toward the Forest Resource Development Agreement (FRDA), including provincial and cost-shared projects, was approximately \$2.2 million. The federal contribution toward FRDA in 1985/86 was in excess of \$3.2 million.

Approximately \$1.65 million was directed toward scarifying 400 hectares to promote natural regeneration, planting 4.8 million seedlings and preparing 2,600 hectares for planting in 1986.

Other areas which received funding were regeneration and young stand surveys and stand tending projects. Other projects initiated were technology transfer, forest protection enhancement, opportunity identification and public information.

Forest Production and Control

Forestry Industry Production and Employment

Direct employment in the forestry industry totalled 2,438.4 person years resulting in an additional 2,877.3 person years of indirect employment.

Depletion of standing timber amounted to 2,528,237 cubic metres, including timber salvage operations. In addition, 595,492 cubic metres were lost to wildfire during the year.

The value of products based on selling prices totalled more than \$163 million.

Timber Supply Evaluation

Extensive timber supply analyses were performed in support of the renegotiations of the Forest Management Licence Agreements. This resulted in the evaluation of the softwood and hardwood timber supplies for three major supply areas and four reserve supply areas. Hardwood timber supply analyses of the six remaining supply areas were also completed, primarily to identify the potential for new or expanded hardwood utilization.

Timber Control

Nine major forest industry annual harvesting plans were approved.

The department hosted the annual meeting of the National Canadian Standards Association Technical Committee regarding the scaling of primary forest products. A policy and procedure was developed to govern the licensing of timber scalers in the province. The 1986 edition of the Saskatchewan Field Scaling Manual was issued. A two-week scaling course was offered by the department to 26 government and industry personnel.

Preliminary results of the fence post study, initiated in 1984, were used in developing some operating and management plans regarding product recovery from specific stand classifications.

Two major projects under the FRDA were developed:

- 1) The Forest Products Recovery Study in the Big River area was designed to investigate yields of various forest products from existing standing timber. It will assist in the allocation of timber to forest product users.

-
- 2) The Mass Scaling Design Study was developed to determine a type of scaling technique which would estimate the solid cubic metre content of wood fiber to within 2.5 per cent.

Timber Allocations and Monitoring

During the year, 7,473 timber and field permits were issued and approximately 1,418 inspections were conducted on the bush operations of the major companies and large permit holders.

The small operator program continued with wood being made available on an annual basis. Much effort has been expended to locate areas where these operators could be offered a longer term timber supply.

Forest Enhancement and Protection

Silviculture Programs

The four provincial nurseries produced 10.2 million trees with distribution primarily to provincial reforestation sites and to forest companies with planting programs. Approximately 7.8 million trees were planted under 10 government contracts while 2.3 million trees were planted by forest companies during the year. Trees were also distributed to schools, churches, youth groups and farm woodlots.

Construction of new forest nursery facilities was started at the Prince Albert and Big River nurseries. The improvements, delivered under the FRDA, will aid in the production of quality seedlings.

Forest Fire Prevention and Suppression

During the 1985 fire season, 520 fires were extinguished. This represents a 9.10 per cent decrease in fires compared to the previous 10-year average of 572 per year.

The 1985/86 forest fire program was considered a success with only 5,113 hectares (0.03 per cent) of forest within the primary protection zone being burned. Only 2,534 hectares of potentially merchantable timber were burned.

The department's fire protection program included maintenance of an automated lightning detection system, operation of fire detection towers and dispatch of fire detection aircraft and RIACT crews. A program to encourage public reporting of fires was introduced along with a toll-free phone line for reporting fires. One hundred twenty-two fires were reported in this manner.

Fire prevention was also enhanced through maintenance of 1,214 kilometres of fireguards and the issue of 1,716 burning permits.

A total of 379 people received training related to suppression of forest fires. Four RIACT (regional initial attack concept team) teams were also trained and then stationed at strategic locations. Ground forces were supported by an air attack team, comprised of six Grumman trackers and three PBY 5A Cansos which dropped approximately 1,212,870 litres of retardant on 72 fires and 8,284,630 litres of water on 119 fires respectively.

The department air attack team was directly supported by privately-owned contracted aircraft consisting of three S55T Sikorskys, one 206 B Bell, one Astar, two S55P Sikorsky rotary wing aircraft and three Beach Baron fixed wing aircraft.

In association with the FRDA, an automated weather detection system was purchased and installed. Complementing this extended fire weather service was the acquisition of two meteorological technicians.

Insect and Disease Monitoring and Control

A reconnaissance cruising program continued in the Fort a la Corne forest with emphasis on the effects of dwarf mistletoe and the relationship between harvest planning and forest potential.

In Cypress Hills Provincial Park, the mountain pine beetle population continued to decline. The annual logging program continued with the harvesting of mature timber, thus varying the future age classes to reduce potential for severe infestations.

A Dutch Elm Disease Surveillance Program was undertaken in July to survey the health of millions of elms in the south of the province. Its objective was to quickly identify any instance of the disease which may appear. Suspected elms were tested and traps were set at various locations to check the incidence of the disease-carrying elm bark beetle. Results indicated that there was no incidence of Dutch elm disease.

In eastern Saskatchewan, forest harvesting was directed into softwood stands that were severely infected with spruce budworm.

Forestry Information and Education

The "If you put it out, we won't have to" forest fire prevention campaign was initiated. News releases, posters and advertisements carried the message which encouraged the public to be careful with fire.

Forest Data

Data Base Development

A total of 150 new maps of the Commercial Forest Zone were produced at a scale of 1:12,500. The remapping program is now 78 per cent complete. An additional 84 maps were updated to reflect changes due to harvesting activities, road construction, wildfire and recreational developments.

A total of 3,900 new aerial photographs were received, thus providing the library with up-to-date photography of 95 per cent of the Commercial Forest Zone.

The department provided numerous photographic prints, blueprints and information from the computer data base to the forest industry, government agencies and the general public.

Field Sampling

Field sampling was carried out to maintain an up-to-date forest information data base. Analysis of the data resulted in the creation of statistics on forest conditions, tree growth and site productivity, thereby providing forest managers with quantitative information for use in planning.

A total of 2,034 sample plots were established using the 3P (probability proportional to prediction) sampling technique.

Geographic Information System

Projects funded under the FRDA:

- 1) The development of the Functional Requirement Specifications was completed for acquiring a geographic information system. Implementation of this system in 1986/87 will be advantageous to the department for program delivery.
- 2) A reconnaissance forest inventory consisting of 26,825 square kilometres of lands lying south of the Commercial Forest Zone in the western area of the province was completed. This project will provide forest resource reconnaissance information for lands situated in the settlement zone south of the Provincial Forest.



Fisheries

Saskatchewan waters contain 68 species of fish, 21 of which are economically important. This renewable resource is based in 68,000 square kilometres of lakes, rivers, and streams which cover 10 per cent of the total area of Saskatchewan. About 50,000 Saskatchewan waterbodies support permanent fish populations.

Saskatchewan's fishery represents a source of revenue and jobs for commercial fishermen, guides and outfitters and traditional resource users, as well as recreational opportunities for approximately 230,000 sport anglers.

Fish Enhancement and Management

Fish and Wildlife Development Fund

The Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF), established in 1984, uses a portion of angling licence revenue for projects to create new fishing opportunities. More than \$650,000 has been expended on fish enhancement projects since the FWDF was established.

A key feature of the FWDF is that it allows assistance to be provided to local groups for joint fish enhancement projects. The department provides technical advice and financial assistance for the design, construction and operation of co-operative projects.

Twelve new fish enhancement projects were implemented in 1985. They included:

- development of walleye rearing ponds at McBride and Codette Lakes
- installation of aeration systems at Jackfish Lake in Duck Mountain Provincial Park and Condie Reservoir near Regina
- rehabilitation of Suffern Lake and a strip mine pit near Estevan
- development of trout ponds near Candle Lake and Prince Albert
- rainbow trout stocking at Redberry Lake
- installation of a fish migration barrier at Sealy Lake
- stocking of catchable rainbow trout at Loch Leven
- operation of the mobile walleye culture unit at Buffalo Pound Lake

Special Fisheries Projects

An experimental program was conducted on three walleye rearing ponds in an effort to improve their productivity. Activities included pond fertilization,

water level manipulation, predator elimination, growth and survival monitoring, population estimates, and release of fingerlings.

The first phase of a two-year study of the North Saskatchewan River was completed. The purpose of the study is to obtain data on which to base fishery management plans. As part of the study, resource user patterns were measured by a creel census.

An appraisal of the Lake Diefenbaker whitefish population was completed. This three-year study examined the causes for the decline in harvest of whitefish by the commercial fishery. Results indicated a good population of small whitefish remains in the lake, although there has been a reduction in the larger size classes. The commercial quota was lowered to allow more fish to mature.

An experimental project to incubate lake trout eggs in enclosed cages at Lake Diefenbaker was completed. A good hatch and survival rate was achieved indicating this may be a feasible method of fish population enhancement.

Four studies were initiated in conjunction with the Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans through the Subagreement for Planning under the Economic and Regional Development Agreement (ERDA). They include an assessment of market opportunities for Saskatchewan brine shrimp and aquaculture products, use of fish by native people and the values of each type of fishery use.

Fish Habitat Protection

Under the Fish Habitat Protection Program, potential harmful impacts of various development proposals on fish and fish habitat are reviewed and, where possible, prevented.

Project reviews and 366 shoreline inspections resulted in the issuing of 129 Shoreland Alteration Permits and 38 Fish Habitat Alteration Permits.

Fish Population Monitoring

Test netting examinations of 113 waters took place during the summer to update management plans and evaluate past stocking success. A further 134 waters were tested during the winter for dissolved oxygen conditions, primarily to determine their availability for fisheries development. Twenty-six of the winter tests were conducted to determine fish farming potential and another 25 were in areas where there was a

Left: Saskatchewan's lakes and rivers provide some of the best angling in Canada.

possibility of adverse impacts from forest cutting operations. Forest cutting reserves were subsequently placed on a number of these areas.

Fish Culture

A total of 228 waters were stocked with 33.9 million fish of nine different species.

Overall production was up 26 per cent from the previous year. The number of walleye stocked was the largest in 27 years.

Regional Fisheries Biologists

A new network of regional fisheries biologists was established to provide better service to resource users and to improve fishery management. Biologists were placed in Meadow Lake, La Ronge, Prince Albert, Melville, Swift Current and Regina Regions. Plans were set in place for Saskatoon Region to obtain a biologist in the coming year.

Fish Farming

There were 2,324 fish farming licences issued in 1985; 95 commercial and 2,229 private. A total of 685,000 rainbow trout fingerlings were stocked, resulting in an estimated harvest of 90,000 kilograms.

Four brokers imported 456,000 fingerlings, while three private hatcheries produced 229,000 fingerlings in the spring of 1985. In the fall and winter, five private hatcheries imported 1.1 million eggs for later sale as fingerlings.

Thirty-four Live Fish Import Permits were issued for the importation of rainbow trout eggs and fingerlings into the province.

Fisheries Information and Education

A second sport fishing seminar took place at Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park on Lake Diefenbaker in July, 1985, co-sponsored by the department and "In-Fisherman" magazine. Its purpose was to promote the lake's under-utilized fishery and provide information on reservoir angling techniques. More than 300 people attended the three-day seminar.

The newly renovated Fort Qu'Appelle Fish Culture Station was officially opened in June. Approximately 10,000 people visited the Station's Visitor Information Centre.

Regular publications included the Saskatchewan Angler's Guide and Fish Facts 1985. Publications on mercury in fish, fish marketing regulations and conservation options for commercial fishermen were also completed.

The first annual update of activities of the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund was published. Eleven signs were installed to identify various fish enhancement projects. The mobile display on fish enhancement was shown at various public functions.

Mercury Standards

Saskatchewan has an ongoing program to test fish for mercury contamination. Eighteen lakes and streams were tested in co-operation with Saskatchewan Health and Saskatchewan Environment as part of the ongoing monitoring program. Administration of the standards for consumption of fish containing mercury is the responsibility of Saskatchewan Health.

In March, 1986, Saskatchewan adopted revised standards similar to those of Manitoba and Ontario. The new standards are broader in scope and take into account the amount of fish consumed over a given length of time along with the mercury levels. Further information on the new standards and recommendations for consumption of fish from Saskatchewan waters is contained in a new publication produced by the department entitled "Mercury-In-Fish".

Enforcement

In 1985/86 a total of 48,398 anglers were contacted in the field by conservation officers, and there were 829 fisheries-related convictions.

In an effort to alleviate illegal use of small mesh gill nets in the commercial fishery, staff checked 4,089 commercial nets and 1,748 domestic nets resulting in the seizure of 179 small mesh nets in the north.

Sport Fishery

Angling

Angling continued to provide significant recreation opportunities during the year. Recreational use of the provincial fishery resulted in the sale of 180,877 angling licences for a revenue of nearly \$2 million.

Sport Fish Conservation Program

The Sport Fish Conservation Program (SFCP) was introduced in the spring of 1985. Its objectives are to reduce the pressure on heavily fished species and to provide protection for spring-spawning fish. Key points in the program included adjustments to some individual species limits, new management zones and season dates, elimination of the combined number and weight limits for the former Northern Management Area and introduction of upper size limits for certain species in the Central and Northern Management Zones.

At the end of the fishing season an evaluation of the program was conducted to determine its impact upon the resource and resource users. User reaction to the SFCP's initial year was positive.

Commercial Fishery

Commercial Fishery Harvest

A total of 1,880 commercial fishing licences were issued resulting in a total harvest of 3.65 million kilograms worth \$3.30 million. Most of the production occurred in northern Saskatchewan where commercial fishing represents an important source of income for northerners. Better fish prices have contributed to the upward trend in commercial production since 1983.

Included in total commercial production are fish sold directly to Saskatchewan consumers. Approximately 300,000 kilograms of fish worth \$459,000 were sold in this manner.

Fifty-six commercial bait fishermen harvested 9,975 kilograms of bait fish worth \$57,956.

Two brine shrimp licences were issued resulting in total production of 35,630 kilograms.

Fur farm fishing operations took almost 53,000 kilograms of fish to feed 1,600 fur animals.

Commercial Fishing Production Incentive Program

The Commercial Fishing Production Incentive Program helps ease the high cost of transporting commercially caught fish from remote areas to market. The transportation assistance portion of the program covers 90 per cent of the cost of transporting fish from the harvest location to Prince Albert. Expenditures under this program totalled \$596,283 for the year.

A further \$52,466 was provided under the Fish Price Support Program. This program improves the price paid to commercial fishermen for species with a depressed market value.

Fish Marketing Regulations

New Fish Marketing Regulations were passed under The Fisheries Act (Saskatchewan) in November, 1985. The purpose of the new regulations is to provide improved access to Saskatchewan fish for consumers, along with improved market prospects for Saskatchewan's commercial fishermen.

The regulations address the marketing of commercially caught fish within the province. Marketing outside the province remains a federal responsibility.

Under the new regulations, provision is made for the licensing of fish dressing and processing establishments and for inspection of fish and sales records. Standards for fish quality and transportation are also included. As well, the regulations enable the licensing of Special Dealers, who may purchase fish from commercial fishermen and market it to Saskatchewan retailers, wholesalers and restaurateurs. Two Special Dealers were licenced in 1985/86.

Commercial Fish Conservation Program

Development of a conservation program for commercial users of the fishery was undertaken to complement the Sport Fish Conservation Program.

In October, 1985, a discussion paper entitled "Conservation Options for Commercial Users of the Fish Resource" was made available to commercial fishermen, outfitters and the general public for review and comment. The paper summarized the main issues facing the commercial fishery and outlined possible solutions.

Commercial net fishery problems include highgrading of high-value species, use of small mesh gill nets, and the need for improved harvest information. The commercial outfitting fishery must address the issues of lodge capacity guidelines and the lack of harvest information.

Responses to the paper were received and evaluated and a proposed Action Plan developed for circulation and further review and comment in the summer of 1986.



Resource Lands

There are approximately 31.5 million hectares of Crown resource lands amounting to 53 per cent of the provincial land base under the department's jurisdiction. The department administers the use, disposition and management of these lands in consultation with municipalities, industry, associations, interest groups, individuals and other government departments.

Land Use Management

Private Investment Program

The program encourages the use of private capital for the development of Crown land. The development of a resort subdivision on Lake Diefenbaker was awarded to the Hitchcock Bay Co-operative. Proposal calls were advertised for private investment opportunities at Noble's Point on Candle Lake, Pruden's Point on Tobin Lake and Zig Zag Bay on Delaronde Lake. Plans were developed for proposal calls for cottage subdivisions at Saskatchewan Landing, Smoothstone Lake and near Elbow on Lake Diefenbaker.

Crown Land Sales Program

Over 300 lessees took advantage of the opportunity to purchase their commercial, recreational and residential lots on Crown land under the Crown Land Sales Program.

Land Use Co-ordination

Department reviews and responses were co-ordinated for Crown land development proposals, Treaty Indian land claims, the rail line abandonment program, environmental impact studies and proposed subdivisions.

Wild Rice

New wild rice regulations and policies were developed and implemented in consultation with the producers in response to the rapid development of the wild rice industry in Saskatchewan. The objective is to ensure the continued growth and development of the province's wild rice industry.

Land Use Inspections

Inspection of work sites, building sites and recreational land use areas is essential to proper land management. Department staff, during the year, inspected 1,252 recreational leases, 302 surface leases, 41 oil sites and 145 exploration work areas to ensure proper land management. An additional 485 outfitting sites, 882 building sites and 902 miscellaneous use permit areas were checked. In addition to land use, a total of 676 water use inspections were carried out.

Land Use Planning

Land Use Studies

The purpose of land use planning is to identify public and private sector needs, develop responses and formulate guidelines for allocation, disposition and administration of land resources.

Shoreland management studies were completed for Delaronde and Candle Lakes and a land management statement was completed for the Nisbet and Canwood Provincial Forests.

Prince Albert National Park

The department and Parks Canada undertook negotiations to redefine the Prince Albert National Park boundaries which will result in more effective management of the adjacent lands.

Crown Land Dispositions

During the year, the department administered 4,800 leases, 975 land use permits, 1,425 wild rice permits and 275 outfitters' licences.



Tables

Table No. 1 Forest Industry Employment April 1/85 — March 31/86

Where Employed	Person Months	Person Years
Office	2,108.1	175.7
Plant or Mill	10,239.7	853.3
Woodlands:		
— Company	10,975.5	914.6
— Subcontractors, loggers, etc. — hired by contractors	5,938.0	494.8
Total	29,261.3	2,438.4

Table No. 2 Value of Forest Products April 1, 1985 — March 31, 1986

Product	Estimated Volume Produced (m ³)	Value (\$/m ³)	Total Value(\$) 1985/86	Total Value(\$) 1984/85
Sawtimber	1,391,127	41.51	57,745,682	45,854,820
Posts	50,497	93.53	4,722,984	2,796,766
Poles	6,577	34.84	229,143	595,171
Rails	5,223	84.91	443,485	319,702
Ties	11,188	243.92	2,728,977	1,197,836
Piling & Round Timber	3,760	288.72	1,085,587	686,199
Fuelwood	129,715	41.51	5,384,470	5,837,576
Waferboard,				
Kraft Pulp & Plywood	1,673,349	54.42	91,061,694	89,931,813
Totals	3,271,436		163,402,022	147,219,883

Average Production Value \$49.95/m³

**Table No. 3 Forest Revenue (from Provincial Forests & Provincial Lands)
April 1, 1985 to March 31, 1986**

Dues, Fees & Royalties

Pulpwood — Licence Area

— Prince Albert Pulpwood	\$ 122,015.95	
— Meadow Lake Sawmill	8,219.02	
— Simpson Timber Company	22,554.00	
— L & M Wood Products	837.74	
— Other	225.00	\$ 153,851.71

Pulpwood — Non Licence Area

— Prince Albert Pulpwood	53,232.88	
— Sask. Forest Products	46,323.86	
— Other	18,829.15	118,385.89

Sawtimber — Licence Area

— Meadow Lake Sawmill	234,503.94	
— Simpson Timber Company	1,068,872.84	
— L & M Wood Products	20,326.75	1,323,703.53

Sawtimber — Non Licence Area

— Sask. Forest Products	395,602.74	
— Other	114,589.78	510,192.52

Other Products — Licence Area

— MacMillan Bloedel	\$102,803.76	
— Lehner Wood Preservers	9,009.23	
— L & M Wood Products	11,449.88	\$123,262.87

Other Products — Non Licence Area

— Sask. Forest Products	1,015,616.56	
— MacMillan Bloedel	10,261.18	
— Lehner Wood Preservers	643.77	
— Other	89,698.66	1,116,220.17

Left: Saskatchewan's forest industry provides over \$5 million to the provincial economy annually.

Table 3 (continued)

Regeneration			
— Meadow Lake Sawmill	\$ 8,792.42	\$ 8,792.42	
Total for Dues, Fees & Royalties			\$3,354,409.11
Licences & Permits			
Sawmill	2,817.88	2,817.88	
Operating			
— Forest Management Licence Agreement	450.00		
— Forest Product Treating Plant	185.00		
— Wild Rice Term	70.00		
— Grazing	103,954.87		
— Hay	20,090.90		
— Timber — With Dues	8,427.20		
— Timber — Free of Dues	822.00		
— Peat & Sphagnum Moss	14.00		
— Wild Rice	35,325.95	169,339.92	
Total for Licences & Permits			172,157.80
Penalties & Interest			
— Waste of Merchantable Timber	2,422.85		
— Overcut Timber Dues	5,557.60		
— Overcut Hay Dues	2,805.13		
— Other	36,603.01	47,388.59	
Total for Penalties & Interest			47,388.59
Sales & Services			
— Timber	1,456.00	1,456.00	
Total for Sales & Services			1,456.00
Other			
Fire Prevention Levy			
— MacMillan Bloedel	20,195.84		
— L & M Wood Products	3,377.66		
— Other	2,197.84		
Ground Rental			
— MacMillan Bloedel	4,733.40		
— L & M Wood Products	879.60	31,384.34	
Total for Other			31,384.34
Miscellaneous	130.00	130.00	
Total for Miscellaneous			130.00
Grand Total for Forests			\$3,606,925.84

Table No. 4 Provincial Forest Fire Summary

Cause	No. of Fires	Total % of Fires	Area Burnt (Hectares)	% of Total Area Burned
Lightning	208	40.00	80,285.23	72.90
Resident	85	16.35	916.33	.83
Recreation	119	22.89	6,791.29	6.17
Incendiary	56	10.77	195.27	.18
Other Industry	6	1.15	89.22	0.08
Forest Industry	10	1.92	177.72	.16
Railroads	1	.19	1.00	.00
Misc.	16	3.08	133.99	.12
Unknown	19	3.65	21,537.46	19.56
Total	520	100.00	110,127.51	100.00

Table No. 5 Reforestation & Distribution of Planting Stock — 1985

Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources			
Reforestation			
Forestry Division			
McKenzie	2,018,625		
Whitefish Creek	200,400		
Divide	1,401,540		
McCallum Lake	1,632,000		
Keely	602,400		
Experimental	10,325	5,865,290	
Regional Projects			
Hudson Bay			
Rice River	600,000		
McBride	400,000	1,000,000	
Meadow Lake			
Divide	479,200	479,200	
P.A. Region			
Nisbet	150,075		
Fort a la Corne	107,000	257,075	
Other Planting			
District	43,560		
Park	125,556	169,116	
Total Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources			7,770,681
Forest Industries			
Total Forest Industries	2,347,325	2,347,325	
			2,347,325
Extension Planting			
Environment 2000	1,475		
Schools, Youth Groups	50,300		
Farm Woodlots	16,210		
Promotional	15,012	82,997	82,997
Grand Total Distribution			10,201,003

Table No. 6 Estimated Depletion of Standing Timber (m³) April 1, 1935 to March 31, 1986

Region	By Use	By Fire (Within Provincial Forest)	Total 1985-86	Total 1984-85	Total 1983-84
Buffalo Narrows*	—	—	—	842,853	6,018
Creighton	94,000	—	94,000	—	191,347
Hudson Bay	1,004,781	1,069	1,005,850	822,108	1,015,594
La Ronge	121,256	94,467	215,723	1,142,922	410,502
Meadow Lake	362,240	478,999	841,239	373,670	586,966
Melville	5,845	—	5,845	1,988	1,745
Prince Albert	937,103	20,957	958,060	936,466	223,334
Regina	275	—	275	97	87
Saskatoon	342	—	342	248	433
Swift Current	2,395	—	2,395	2,022	3,140
Northern Forest Operations	—	—	—	—	600,936
Total	2,528,237	595,492	3,123,729	4,122,374	3,040,102

* During 1985/86 Buffalo Narrows is a district within Meadow Lake Region.

**Table No. 7 Provincial Parks, Number of Vehicle Entries,
1978-1985 (Victoria Day Weekend - Labor Day Weekend)**

Location	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Buffalo Pound	48,166	41,506	38,387	44,473 **	40,973	33,139	37,285	29,192
Cypress Hills	55,564	56,638	64,579	78,564	74,969	73,402	61,586	49,457
Danielson	32,402 **	40,486	30,483	35,852	39,692	32,899	36,048	30,329
Douglas	12,004	12,400	18,685	23,625	23,906	21,217	22,531	21,455
Duck Mountain	96,075	115,929	89,198	72,698	85,122	101,272	81,332	80,881
Echo Valley	83,368	102,167	80,544	93,162	52,940	54,502	66,959	56,577
Good Spirit Lake	35,316	47,147	32,124	31,568	33,763	31,576	36,671	35,144
Greenwater	39,548	40,860	37,493	28,680	22,562	27,050	17,362	18,052
Katepwa Point	12,027	14,378	7,357	6,636	14,716	11,231	13,948	9,971
Lac La Ronge	—	—	—	—	5,060	19,179 ***	44,273	42,782
Meadow Lake	89,086	75,137	75,526	110,366	78,735 *	75,535	79,154	83,223
Moose Mountain	159,779	145,931 *	160,857	150,091	143,681	130,857	146,771	139,600
Nipawin	15,980	12,023	11,898	34,935	17,562 *	12,377	12,498	13,970
Pike Lake	56,506	41,157	44,513	47,105	42,239 ****	38,442	32,191	33,291
Rowan's Ravine	43,049	27,919	25,336	27,195	40,062	26,675	26,557	22,631
Saskatchewan Landing	38,588	41,579	52,993	57,144	45,042	53,253	51,047	54,152
The Battlefords	63,943	69,890	52,341	52,857	58,164	65,281	57,149	77,995
Total	881,401	885,147	822,314	894,951	819,188	807,887	823,362	798,802
Percent Change	+5.8	+0.4	-7.1	+8.8	-8.5	-1.4	+1.9	-2.9

* 1 less traffic counter than previous year

** 1 more traffic counter than previous year

*** 2 more traffic counters than previous year

**** Figure adjustment for 1982 from previous annual reports due to errors in traffic counter reporting

Table No. 8 Big Game Harvest & Recreation Days By Species: 1983-1985

	1983		1984		1985	
	Harvest	Rec. Days	Harvest	Rec. Days	Harvest	Rec. Days
White-tailed Deer	33,574	159,235	38,820	121,268	19,861	11,876
Moose	2,113	37,738	3,223	35,364	2,068	42,859
Elk	534	12,153	1,051	14,645	478	16,323
Mule Deer	6,231	12,833	10,950	15,511	16,311	29,435
Antelope	2,010	3,955	2,031	4,315	1,718	5,596
Woodland Caribou	27	232	23	512	23	420
Black Bear	1,071	10,027	1,778	10,189	1,038	20,923

Table No. 9 Game Bird Harvest & Recreation Days By Species: 1983-1985

	1983		1984		1985	
	Harvest	Rec. Days	Harvest	Rec. Days	Harvest	Rec. Days
Ducks	326,100	75,036	182,706	42,188	152,978	46,420
Geese	213,025	69,871	162,219	51,954	176,362	58,701
Sandhill Crane	2,965	1,164	3,110	833	6,202	1,477
Sharp-tailed Grouse	58,823	31,391	54,233	17,421	41,788	16,785
Hungarian Partridge	61,073	26,409	59,794	16,611	41,998	13,353
Ruffed Grouse	13,523	11,806	12,986	4,637	15,074	5,393
Spruce Grouse	3,946	2,026	4,345	1,339	4,229	1,305
Pheasant	15,857	9,315	12,169	4,866	7,084	3,225

Table No. 10 Hunting and Trapping Licence Sales and Revenues

	Number	Revenue
Game Bird		
Saskatchewan Resident Game Bird	38,243	\$ 382,430
Canadian Resident Game Bird	2,181	109,050
Non-resident Game Bird	3,497	349,700
Total Game Bird	43,921	841,180
Big Game		
1st Saskatchewan Resident Barren-ground Caribou	25	500
2nd Saskatchewan Resident Barren-ground Caribou	17	340
1st Saskatchewan Resident Bear	3,601	54,015
2nd Saskatchewan Resident Bear	319	4,785
1st Canadian Resident Bear	67	3,350
2nd Canadian Resident Bear	3	150
1st Non-resident Bear	380	38,000
2nd Non-resident Bear	22	2,200
Saskatchewan Resident Woodland Caribou	134	4,020
Canadian Resident Woodland Caribou	4	600
Non-resident Woodland Caribou	14	4,200
1st Saskatchewan Resident White-tailed Deer	45,532	1,138,300
1st Canadian Resident White-tailed Deer	786	78,600
1st Non-resident White-tailed Deer	136	27,200
1st Saskatchewan Resident Archery White-tailed Deer	1,357	33,925
1st Saskatchewan Resident Muzzleloader White-tailed Deer	577	14,425
Saskatchewan Resident Elk	3,237	97,110
Saskatchewan Resident Regular Moose	8,125	243,750
Big Game Draw		
Special Elk	1,085	32,550
Special Moose	2,105	63,150
Special Moose Archery	38	1,140
Antelope	2,921	87,630
Antelope Archery	260	7,800
Either-sex Mule Deer	6,571	197,130
Either-sex Mule Deer Archery	797	23,910
Antlerless Mule Deer	9,069	272,070
Antlerless Mule Deer Archery	172	5,160
Total Big Game	87,354	\$2,436,010
Trapping		
South Saskatchewan Fur	13,388	\$ 133,880
North Saskatchewan Fur	2,955	29,550
Total Trapping	16,343	163,430
Total Receipts, Game and Fur Licences	147,618	\$3,440,620

Table No. 11 Fish and Wildlife Development Fund

	Fisheries	Wildlife	Total
Opening Fund Balance			\$ 423,925
Revenues	\$579,799	\$818,882	1,398,681
Expenditures	394,403	307,047	701,450
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	185,396	511,835	697,231
Ending Fund Balance			1,121,156

Table No. 12 Fisheries Licence Sales

Licences	1983-84		1984-85		1985-86	
	Number Sold	Dollar Revenue	Number Sold	Dollar Revenue	Number Sold	Dollar Revenue
Sport						
Resident	178,138	\$ 805,798	159,320	\$1,593,200	160,307	\$1,603,070
Non-Resident	17,977	253,954	18,109	362,180	18,738	374,760
One-Day	1,288	2,576	1,472	5,888	1,832	7,328
Total	197,403	\$1,062,328*	178,901	\$1,961,268*	180,877	\$1,985,158*
Commercial						
Fisherman Dealer	43	\$ 215	41	\$ 205	27	\$ 135
Fish Dealer	1	250	1	250	1	250
Fish Processing Plant	1	25	1	25	3	75
Commercial Net	1,585	20,040	1,715	23,246	1,880	27,001
Franchise	1	10	—	—	—	—
Brine Shrimp Net	8	160	3	60	2	40
Bait Fish	50	1,000	63	1,245	57	1,140
Fish Farm						
Private	2,202	—	2,069	—	2,229	—
Commercial	63	945	72	1,080	95	1,430
Fur Farm	5	565	4	327	3	344
Total	3,959	\$ 23,210	3,969	\$ 26,438	4,297	\$ 30,415
Domestic						
Domestic Net	538	\$ 2,690	479	\$ 2,392	735	\$ 3,675

* Includes Vendor's Commission

Table No. 13 Commercial Fish Production and Value

Species	1983-84		1984-85		1985-86	
	Kilograms	Lake Value (\$)	Kilograms	Lake Value (\$)	Kilograms	Lake Value (\$)
Whitefish	1,056,747	799,559	1,184,818	942,530	1,373,288	960,780
Walleye	649,672	958,878	676,903	1,329,960	616,816	1,244,937
Pike	493,254	217,030	660,009	316,887	708,321	392,062
Trout	237,508	177,770	398,720	550,108	438,418	558,679
Tullibee	208,562	40,254	297,249	66,240	249,771	56,259
Others*	172,205	50,645	261,360	73,991	262,720	86,525
Total	2,817,948	2,224,136	3,479,067	3,279,716	3,649,324	3,299,242

* Buffalo fish, Carp, Suckers

Table No. 14 Summary of Fish Stocking

Species	Number Stocked	Number of Lakes Stocked
Walleye		
Fry	33,202,500	76
Fingerlings	48,400	12
Rainbow Trout		
Fingerlings	247,800	68
Adults	163	2
Splake Fingerlings	188,500	24
Arctic Grayling Fry	150,000	8
Lake Trout Fingerlings	43,000	4
Brook Trout Fingerlings	37,300	25
Northern Pike		
Fry	13,000	1
Adults	200	3
Perch Adults	7,580	4
Brown Trout Adults	5	1
Total	33,938,448	228